

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract on page 39 with the following:

~~The object of the present invention is to provide~~ provides methods for identifying factors involved in inducing the differentiation of pluripotent cells, ~~and methods for using those factors.~~ Using cDNA microarray technology, ~~variations in gene expression between placebo-treated and CCl₄-treated mice livers were analyzed 24 hours after treatment, and several growth factors were selected.~~ The effects of matrix and growth factors on hepatocyte differentiation rates of ES cells were investigated. As a result, the ~~The~~ present inventors succeeded in differentiating hepatocytes from ES cells without EB formation, using simple adherent monoculturing in media comprising several growth factors in culture dishes with two different matrices.